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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/620,287	07/20/2000	Robert Samuel Smith	RSSU2	3438
7590 09/14/2004				
Robert Samuel Smith 1263 Emory Street San Jose, CA 95126			EXAMINER BARNES, CRYSTAL J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2121	
DATE MAILED: 09/14/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/620,287

Applicant(s)

SMITH, ROBERT SAMUEL

Examiner

Crystal J. Barnes

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-6 and 13-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 7-12, 17 and 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 August 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) ✓
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The following is a Non-Final Office Action in response to Amendment After Final received on 30 August 2004. Claims 1-6 and 13-15 have been cancelled. Claims 7, 8, 10 and 17 have been amended. Claims 7-12 and 16-18 remain pending in this application.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn.

Drawings

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: reference numbers 32A in figure 1 and 44 in figure 4 are not mentioned in the specification. Corrected drawing sheets, or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended.

The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the typographical error ("1.") on line 2 and grammatical error ("," before "a") on line 3. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

5. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: typographical errors (space between "fig. 4") on page 9 second line of last paragraph, ("," after "fig. 4") on page 10 sixth line of first paragraph on page 9 last line, ("," between "fig. 3,4") on page 11 fourth line of last paragraph.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

8. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

9. Claim 16 recites the limitation "said field of view" in line 4 of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 16 recites the limitation "omnidirectional field of view" in line 3 of the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

11. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,593,956 B1 to Potts et al. in view of USPN 6,043,837 to Driscoll, Jr. et al.

As per claim 16, the Potts et al. reference discloses a method for monitoring a conference of a group of conferees at respective locations (see column 6 lines 28-12, "location of speaker relative to reference point") around a video camera

means ("camera 14") having an omnidirectional field of view providing that each conferee (see column 6 lines 25-27, "speaker") is in said field of view of said camera means ("camera 14") wherein said camera means ("camera 14") has a video signal control (see column 6 lines 45-50, "audio and video signal processing unit 20") for projecting onto a video monitor (see column 6 lines 54-60, "receiving video conference system") a selected section of said video signal ("video signals 24") corresponding to a selected one of said locations ("location of speaker relative to reference point"); positioning at each location one of a group of audio detectors (see column 6 lines 17-22, "microphones 12"); arranging each said audio detector ("microphones 12") in operable combination with said camera means ("camera 14") to activate said video signal control ("audio and video signal processing unit 20") to project onto said video monitor ("receiving video conference system") an image ("video image") of said location ("location of speaker relative to reference point") when one of said conferees ("speaker") located at said location ("location of speaker relative to reference point") generates a sound ("audio signals 22") received by said respective audio detector ("microphones 12").

The Potts et al. reference does not expressly disclose a video camera means having an omnidirectional field of view.

The Driscoll, Jr. et al. reference discloses

(see column 2 lines 49-50, "... 360 degree panoramic camera system.")

(see column 3 lines 3-8, "The panoramic camera system ... captures an entire 360 degree image of the surrounding horizon ... objects as low as 60 degrees below the horizon and objects as high as 60 degrees above the horizon.")

(see column 8 lines 16-25, "... a panoramic camera system 810 is used in a conference room ... video conference ... remote site ... microphone for recording audio information ... panoramic camera for recording panoramic annular images.")

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the video camera taught by the Potts et al. reference with panoramic camera system taught by the Driscoll, Jr. et al. reference.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify the video camera with panoramic camera system to provide full view panoramic images by capturing light from all directions to increase the viewing angle.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claims 7-12, 17 and 18 are allowable.

13. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

As per claim 17, the prior art of record taken alone or in combination fail to teach a plurality of circuit means, one circuit means for each one audial detector, each circuit means arranged to provide that, when any one audial detector detects a sound coming from said 360° field of view before any other of said audial detectors detects said sound, then said circuit means coupled to said any one audial detector disables all other detectors of said plurality of audio detectors and emits a position signal providing that said any one audio detector emitting said position signal corresponds to said direction of said source of sound relative to said viewpoint.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following references are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to omnidirectional cameras in general:

USPN 6,333,826 B1 to Charles

USPN 6,253,064 B1 to Monroe

15. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Crystal J. Barnes whose telephone number is 703.306.5448 or 571.272.3679 after 14 October 2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday alternate Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on 703.308.3179 or 571.272.3687 after 14 October 2004. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CJB
13 September 2004



Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600